

**Khomeini rejects Rushdie apology**

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Sunday rejected the apology of British writer Salman Rushdie, and ruled that the author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel Muslims consider blasphemous of Islam, would never be forgiven. In an urgent dispatch, the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Khomeini as saying Rushdie "could not be forgiven even if he repents." Rushdie has not been seen in public since Tuesday, when Khomeini ordered zealous Muslims to kill him (see page 8). A bounty of \$5.2 million has been put on Rushdie's head by Iranian leaders. The author Saturday issued an apology through his agent, saying he was sorry for distress the book had caused. Britain's senior diplomat in Tehran, Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Brown, met Sunday with Iran's deputy foreign minister for European and U.S. affairs "to get a feel of current Iranian thinking," the Foreign Office said. During the meeting the Iranian minister, Mohammad Larjani, "described Mr. Rushdie's statement as positive," said a Foreign Office spokesman in London. However, Iran's only diplomat in London, Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Basit, said he thought Rushdie's apology "has some shortcoming."

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HM King Hussein

**King voices profound thanks for popular support of ACC**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced his deep appreciation and thanks for the Jordanian people for the very warm welcome they extended to him upon his return from Baghdad after the founding meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Thursday and their overwhelming support for their new economic alliance, which groups Jordan with Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

In a message to the country released Sunday and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the King said he was overwhelmed with joy and delight over the extremely warm wel-

come accorded to him upon his return from the Iraqi capital and was extremely happy that he had taken the significant and historic step that leads to Pan-Arab unity.

"Words fail me to express my happiness and I am extremely thankful for your national feelings which were manifested in your warm greetings and rejoicing," the King said. "Indeed, the manifestation of joy in Jordan over the historic event had further increased my conviction that this step, and other that will follow, are in your national interests, serving the future generations, not only in Jordan but also

throughout the Arab World at large."

"The great display of rejoicing reflects your response and genuine feelings over the importance of the great step taken in Baghdad," the King said. "The proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council is the first step towards achieving further Arab strength and unity, and it represents a fresh move towards building the future on solid and sound foundation, characterised by cooperation and mutual confidence."

"My confidence and belief in my nation and the Jordanian family, which is totally committed to the Arab Nation and its objectives, continue to motivate my actions and continue to prompt me to sacrifice my life in your service," the King said. "It emanates from our faith in and adherence to the noble principles and objectives of the Great Arab Revolt."

Meantime, messages of congratulation continued to arrive at the Royal Palace over the founding of the ACC. Among those sending the cables were Jordanian, Arab as well as foreign leaders and notables.

Petra reported from the Omani capital of Muscat that Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said voiced support for the ACC as well as the Arab Maghreb Union, which was proclaimed Friday.

"The experience of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has proved that Arab alliances serve the objectives of the Arab League and that they lead to achieving Arab solidarity," Petra quoted Sultan Qaboos as saying.

In Amman, the Uninist Democratic Group of Jordan congratulated the King and pledged allegiance to the monarch. The group praised the royal amnesty announced Saturday for administrative detainees and convicts who have served half their terms. The group said they were looking forward to King Hussein's efforts to unite Arab ranks and

strengthen democratic institutions, journalism and political work.

Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Director-General Al Sayyed Hashmi at Banat said the ACC was a "new strength to the whole Arab Nation and heralds a bright future."

At a press conference held in Baghdad, Banat said the return of Egypt to the ALO after a 10-year suspension was imminent. The next ALO meeting is scheduled to be held in Rabat, Morocco, in March.

Iraqi Women's Federation (Continued on page 4)

**Shevardnadze delivers Gorbachev message, presents Soviet views****King underlines big power role in effort for Mideast peace**

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and emphasised the role that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council could play in efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Shevardnadze, who arrived here earlier from Syria, delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the King. The message dealt with "the most important developments, among which the Middle East conflict figures high," Petra said.

Shevardnadze also conveyed greetings from the Soviet president to the King, Petra said. The Soviet leader praised the role

played by the King in settling international issues, the Middle East conflict in particular, the agency said.

The King explained to Shevardnadze "Jordan's stand vis-à-vis the Middle East conflict in general and the Palestinian problem in particular," and emphasised "the role that can be played by the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council in efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East by convening an international conference under the auspices of the U.N."

(Continued on page 4)



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday confers with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

**Crown Prince: Youth sector represents real development**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Suday stressed the role of the youth and the responsibilities they should bear for finding solutions to existing problems.

Prince Hassan said statistics show that 55 per cent of Jordan's population is below 15 years of age and that one third of the Kigdom's population are students. Therefore, the Crown Prince said, any approach to dialogue with the youth is based on the conviction that the youth sector represents real and effective development.

In a lecture he delivered at the Farah Rehabilitation Centre on the problems and values of youth, Prince Hassan recalled His Majesty King Hussein's famous saying: "The youth are the

dearest asset of the country and are the beating heart of the nation."

Prince Hassan pointed out that the number of students enrolled at universities in the age group 18 to 24 was 37 per cent — a rate which is the highest in the Arab region.

He said "our students are still studying disciplines that are not needed in the labour market, neither in Jordan nor in the Arab region. He outlined the new trend in Jordanian universities to reconsider specialisations, which have reached 50, though some of

which neither meet the community's development needs nor requirements of the local and regional markets at a time when the region is witnessing new historical developments aimed at achieving

economic integration such as the founding of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Prince Hassan pointed out that Jordan seeks to upgrade the level of the educational output, achieve conformity with the labour market and interaction with the world scientific and cultural developments. This, he added, requires comprehensive changes in the field of training teachers and development of curricula, improving school buildings and reassessment of the educational and examination systems.

Prince Hassan also said some 25,000 community college graduates would receive proper training and that 300 teachers had already started training within the framework of a pilot project.

Despite the measures, sporadic protests erupted in at least three areas in Gaza and the West Bank, in which troops were stoned and responded with gunfire, the reports said.

The strike, called to press demands for independent Palestinian statehood, is the longest work stoppage ordered by the underground leaders since the uprising began 14 months ago.

News reports said it was fully observed.

Soldiers clamped curfews on three neighbourhoods and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, confining at least 45,000 Palestinians to their homes, in an effort to prevent violent outbreaks.

Thirteen alleys in the Khan

**Palestinians begin 3-day strike; 8 injured in clashes**

Occupied JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians shunned businesses and stayed home from work throughout the occupied territories at the start of a three-day general strike. Eight Palestinians were wounded or injured in clashes with Israeli troops, news reports said.

Residents closed their shops and halted public transport in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem on the first day of the three-day strike, called by underground leaders of the 14-month Palestinian uprising.

A spokesman confirmed that border police shot a Palestinian in Jenin, but had no other reports.

Thirteen alleys in the Khan

**Israeli cabinet feuds over meetings with Palestinians**

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli cabinet ministers clashed Sunday over a series of meetings last week between politicians and Faisal Al Husseini, a prominent supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Ministers from the rightist Likud party and hawkish members of the centre-left Labour Party criticised the secret talks, but some Labour ministers said Israel had to talk peace to Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"Right now we don't have any other possible partner," Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev told Reuters. "Jordan has disengaged, the PLO is out of the question... so we are left with the people who live in the area."

But Transport Minister Moshe

Katsav of Likud said Israel could not speak to Palestinians who openly identified with the PLO. Israel sees Husseini as the senior PLO figure in the West Bank.

"I am against it. He (Husseini) represents the PLO and their purpose is a Palestinian state, which for us would be a big disaster. Local Palestinians are one thing but not if the PLO is their authority," Katsav said.

He told Reuters after the cabinet meeting that most ministers had opposed the meetings.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, quoted by participants, said there was a "strange rush" to meet Husseini for talks which he said did more harm than good.

The controversy highlighted divisions over how Israel should respond to the new strategy of

**Lebanese clerics head for Kuwait as fighters dig in**

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's Muslim and Christian religious leaders flew to Kuwait Sunday night to fly to Kuwait later from Damascus, where he resides.

"In the name of Jesus Christ's teachings, I plead with you to exert self-control and avert renewed war because then Lebanon will not be resurrected," told a Sunday church service.

"Brothers should not kill each other. Bloodletting should be spared. The strife should end."

But, as he spoke, the two sides in battles which raged through the streets of east Beirut last week were seen reinforcing their positions.

Militiamen from the Lebanese Forces (LF) dug trenches, erected checkpoints and sandbagged strongpoints. Mainly-Christians units of the regular army

remained on full alert behind artillery and tanks.

The patriarch mediated a truce Friday between General Michel Aoun, commander of 15,000 regular soldiers, and Samir Geagea, head of the 12,000-strong LF militia.

Police said 76 people were killed and 200 wounded during two days of fierce fighting between Aoun's regular soldiers and the 6,000 irregulars of the LF.

"I wish you will not use my absence to fight again," said Seir.

The Kuwait talks are the second stage of an effort by a seven-nation Arab League committee charged with seeking a settlement of the political crisis that has left Lebanon without a president for the past 147 days.

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## Najibullah tightens grip

**KABUL** (Agencies) — President Najibullah, tightening his grip on the Kabul government, will head a supreme military council to coordinate Afghanistan's war against Western-backed rebels, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Sunday.

Najibullah earlier imposed a state of emergency and sacked a quarter of his cabinet, just three days after the Soviet Union withdrew its last troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet pullout after nine years left his government's forces to fight Mujahedeen rebels alone.

A decree signed by the 43-year-old Afghan president Saturday said the country's national sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity were under threat.

Wakil said the council would coordinate military, economic and political activities and would take over in the next few days.

He said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) this was not a move towards military rule because the civilian council of ministers (cabinet) would continue to function.

Earlier, Foreign Ministry offi-

cials said seven central committee members of Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) were brought in to replace non-party ministers.

"We wanted to send a signal to the counter-revolutionaries who think that the party is finished," a senior party member commented. "We are more united, more determined, and stronger than ever."

The reshuffle was carried out Saturday afternoon shortly before the announcement on the state broadcasting network of a state of emergency.

Wakil said the proposed "supreme military council for the defense of the homeland" would contain both PDPA members and non-members.

He told the BBC that the state of emergency decreed by Najibullah from Sunday morning was a precautionary measure to counter

sabotage by the guerrillas and neighbouring Pakistan.

Meanwhile, after nearly two weeks of political manoeuvring, Iran-based Afghan rebels have returned to Iran empty-handed without winning a role in shaping a proposed interim government for their country.

A spokesman said a delegation of the eight-party alliance of minority Shi'ite Muslims led by Mohammad Karim Khalil, left Saturday night after Pakistani-based comrades agreed in their absence to the nomination of a fundamentalist prime minister for the proposed government.

The Khalil spokesman said the Iran-based Mujahedeen fighters would not be bound by decisions of a Shura, or consultative council, which was to vote later Sunday on a cabinet list drawn up by the prime minister-designate, U.S.-trained engineer Ahmad Shah.

The Iran-based rebels, pressing for demands for greater representation, boycotted the Shura when it began Feb. 10.

Western diplomats have stressed the need for unity among fending rebel groups to bolster

their struggle to dislodge Najibullah's government.

They said a broad-based interim government could increase the chances of a possible military coup against Najibullah and trigger more government defections to rebel ranks.

In a surprise development Saturday, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi announced with immediate effect his resignation as chairman of the Pakistan-based, seven-party alliance of majority Sunni Muslims in favour of fellow moderate Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

He said he had stepped down voluntarily to avoid a split in the alliance of four fundamentalist and three moderate parties.

Mojaddidi, who supported the Iran-based fighters, also boycotted some of the Shura sessions.

In his interview with the BBC, Foreign Minister Wakil said that in the past few days government security forces had detained many agents belonging to the parties of rebel leaders Barakatullah and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and seized a tonne of explosives.

Commenting on the sacking of the non-party ministers, he said:

their replacements from the central committee were more dependable.

He blamed some of the sacked ministers for contributing to the shortage of food and fuel in Kabul this winter, saying they had failed to bring in adequate supplies when the weather was warmer earlier in the year.

Wakil said new security measures would be introduced throughout Afghanistan in the next few days, including house-to-house searches for guerrilla arms caches.

The Afghan capital has remained calm after the imposition of the emergency, which brought more tanks, armoured personnel carriers and troops onto the streets than normal.

The government was mobilising all PDPA members not already serving in the armed forces, a senior party official said.

Photographers reported that several hundred party men were brought into the city from outlying areas Sunday, armed with brand-new Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The civilians, mainly younger or older than the average soldier, were marshalled at Khan Khana



Business as usual... An open-air barber attends to a customer on a Kabul street

on the western edge of Kabul and then dispatched to defence positions.

The emergency, which can last for three months without extension, suspends a series of constitutional rights including freedom of expression, assembly and foreign travel.

## Arafat: Israel, PLO hold indirect talks on S. Lebanon



Yasser Arafat

another marshall plan in the area," he said, referring to re-building post-war Europe.

Arafat said the idea would need the support of the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and Japan.

The PLO chief also said he would like to meet with Secretary of State James Baker to discuss Baker's warning that attacks on Israeli soldiers or civilians by Palestinians deeply troubled the Bush administration.

Arafat said he would like Baker to say the same thing to Israeli forces "who are occupying my country and making daily aggression against our children, against our women, against our masses, against our children."

Arafat also said the PLO would punish Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril if he was found responsible for the bomb that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

"But it has to be proven," he said.

An Israeli official said Tuesday Western intelligence agencies had concluded the attack was carried out by Jibril's group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, with help from Lebanese from a faction involved in a power struggle within Iran.

He said the channels being used included PLO representatives in the occupied territories in Israel, European diplomats and diplomats at the United Nations.

Arafat said Israel wanted the PLO to agree to the same terms they had reached before Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982.

"They are asking me to repeat the same truce," he said.

"They are asking for a truce, ceasing fire, truce."

Arafat had often said that he is in contact with Israeli authorities, but Israel has always denied it.

The PLO leader also proposed establishing a common market in the Middle East, including Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

"You think that peace is only a paper? Peace has... to be implemented... joint ventures,

region too.

"As realists, we understand that this is a challenging task. Above all, it requires cutting the knot of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Movement towards peace in the Middle East is gaining momentum.

"It is our profound conviction that favourable prerequisites are now in place for movement towards peace in the Middle East, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"This region now ranks third after the NATO and Warsaw Pact in terms of the concentration of weapons. But while those two alliances are already affected by a trend towards disarmament, we see in the Middle East something quite different — an escalation in the arms race."

"The saddest fact of all is that as it is now increasingly evident, new twists in the arms race spiral include even such weapons of mass destruction as nuclear arms and chemical weapons."

"Moving towards a safe future is only possible if methods of force are excluded from politics. The time has come to build bridges of mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence in this

Third, as demonstrated by the experience already gained in defusing other regional conflicts, the peace-making potential of the U.N. and of its secretary-general could be engaged also in other mutually acceptable and flexible forms of constructive interaction among the parties involved in the settlement.

"A deadline could be set for the preparatory phase, limiting its duration for six or nine months."

"It is indisputable that an equitable settlement cannot be attained without unity among the Arab countries. We see that our Syrian friends care about the problem of strengthening inter-Arab relations and are undertaking efforts to create a healthier environment in the Arab World."

"We welcome the idea of holding a meeting of representatives of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO. It is also important to strengthen the link of Syrian-Palestinian interaction."

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conflict, assuming the function of a preparatory body for the conference.

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# National News

## Crown Prince to chair Ajloun development talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair a meeting to be held in Ajloun on Feb. 26 with local development councils, to discuss the district's development programme, according to an official announcement here Sunday.

It said that the meeting will be affiliated to the development council's meeting which was held in the Irbid region in the past year.

According to the announcement, the meeting in Ajloun will chart a programme for the private and public sectors to contribute to the development of the Ajloun district in the coming years.

Prince Hassan chaired development councils meetings in the north, south and central regions of Jordan to discuss various economic and social development



HRH Crown Prince Hassan projects in these regions.

There was a special meeting to discuss the development of the Badia region (desert lands) in Jordan which accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom.

## Dajani instructs governors to release all detainees

AMMAN (J.T.) — In accordance with a Royal Decree, Interior Minister Rajah Dajani Sunday issued instructions to governors to release all administrative detainees in the Kingdom's various governorates, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty King Hussein Saturday issued a decree ordering the release of all administrative detainees and all prisoners who have served more than half their respective sentences. The decree,

which was issued to mark last week's establishment of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), also reduced by half the sentences of those serving prison terms.

Those released Sunday expressed their appreciation and thanks to King Hussein for his gesture, asserting their loyalty and dedication to the Hashemite leadership and their intention to lead a normal life in the service of the country, Petra said.

## Quadruplets, triplets born in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Two Jordanian women have given birth to a quadruplets and triplets at the military hospital in Irbid. The quadruplets — three girls and a boy with weight ranging between 1.440 kilograms and 1.99 kilograms — were placed in an incubator and were being fed intravenously. The triplets — all girls with weights ranging between three kilograms and three and a half kilograms — were doing well.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**EURO-ARAB CONFERENCE:** A Euro-Arab conference on arbitration will be held in Amman this year under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to a report in Al Dustour daily. The report said that the conference, which will be organised by the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, will be attended by 300 personalities, all specialists in law and legal affairs pertaining to trade from Arab regional and foreign countries. Dr. Fathi Kamisheh from the Arab-European Chamber of Commerce is currently in Amman to prepare for the coming conference, according to the paper (J.T.).

**DUDIN TO ATTEND ALO MEETING:** The Council of Ministers Sunday formed Jordan's delegation to the 17th meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) due to be held in Rabat, Morocco, on March 16. According to a statement following the council's meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Thoqan Hindawi, the two-week conference will be attended by Labour Minister Marwan Dudin and a delegation representing the Ministry of Labour, the Jordanian labour unions and employers. (Petra)

**3 SECONDARY SCHOOLS INAUGURATED:** Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thoqan Hindawi Monday inaugurated three secondary schools in Salt, Aliaan and Mahees, constructed at a total cost of JD 1,311,046. The new school buildings in Balqa Governorate will replace the rented ones. (Petra)

**MAFRAG SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE:** Mafraq Governor Fayed Al Abbadi Sunday reviewed the plan of action of Princess Basma Social Services Centre, with the centre's local committee. The centre's plan provides for holding training courses in the field of child-care and community development. (Petra)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- \* The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- \* An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- \* A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- \* An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- \* An exhibition of Polish contemporary art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition of Islamic art and calligraphy by Jordanian artist Mohammad Mubaidin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- \* An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Yarmouk University.
- \* An exhibition of Arabic books which includes 15,000 books on science, education and culture at the Karak Community College.
- \* An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Yabha at Alia Art Gallery.

### THEATRE

- \* Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet will be performed by the London Shakespeare Group at the Yarmouk University — 4:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- \* A lecture entitled "The Bible and History: the Origins of State" by Jean-Michel de Tarragon at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### FILM

- \* A Spanish film entitled "Requiem por un Campesino Espanol" at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 10:30 a.m.

## Queen Noor praises NMI efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor praised Sunday the efforts of the National Medical Institution (NMI) for fulfilling its aims and reaching out to the different sectors of society in Jordan.

During a visit to the NMI, Queen Noor also expressed satisfaction with the extent of cooperation between the Ministry of Health and NMI, and called for an awareness campaign to be launched by the officials of both government departments on preserving cleanliness of the hospitals.

NMI Director Daoud Hanania briefed Queen Noor on the historical development of health care in Jordan, the mission of NMI, the organisational structure, the current scope of work, the master plan for the year 2000, as well as the main tasks performed to date. Dr. Hanania also discussed the goals of the institution vis-à-vis the present health needs for upgrading health care ser-



HM Queen Noor

vices in the Kingdom. Queen Noor was assured that the health services of NMI hospitals are accessible to all sectors of society and that the hospitals provide for the needy free of charge.

On Oct. 16, 1987, the

National Medical Institution was created, consolidating the country's three government hospital systems — the Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services and Jordan University Hospital — into one organisation.

The principal objectives of NMI are to provide quality secondary and tertiary care in a cost-efficient manner, by applying modern management techniques and by avoiding the duplication of services experienced by the previous system.

The central theme behind many of Queen Noor's projects in the Kingdom is primary health care for children and health awareness programmes for mothers.

These projects include health communication for child survival programme, the Institute for Child Health and Development, as well as ongoing plans to establish a national hospital for children.

## Municipality to remove dilapidated buildings from downtown Amman

ZARQA (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said Sunday Amman Municipality has worked out plans to remove dilapidated

buildings from the centre of the capital to make more room for the growing volume of traffic and give further space for pedestrians downtown.

"At the same time the municipality continues its endeavours to find new ways for disposing of garbage, which is growing in volume all the time, and ways to safeguard the environment within the capital's boundaries," the mayor said in a lecture he delivered here.

In his lecture the mayor outlined Amman's history and its development and current programmes for expansion and the improvement of public services.

The first municipality in Amman was established in 1909 and

since then municipal services have been on the increase as the people grew in number, thus requiring more attention, the mayor noted.

He said that the continuous efforts by the municipality teams have made Amman one of the cleanest capitals around the world.

"The municipality is going ahead with plans to green the capital, create more public gardens in every district and is giving due care to protect the city from pollution," the mayor said.

The director of education and heads of government agencies in Zarqa were among the audience.

## New batch of policemen get advanced training

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Two more batches of police officers with advanced training graduated Sunday from the Kafrein training centre in the Jordan Valley at a ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Majali delivered a speech underlining the importance of the advanced training courses for all police officers since they provide new high-level skills.

"The new graduates are needed to help carry out the PSD's comprehensive security programme which is being implemented in the country," Majali noted.

At the end of the exercises Majali presented awards to the graduates.

According to the commander of the PSD, Special Training Department recruits take six courses covering operations training normally by Badia and Border Police Forces, as well as special training to provide protection for leaders and important personalities, in addition to training in the use of various types of arms and vehicles.

The graduates presented a performance of their skills as well as martial arts, mountain climbing and sports activities at the graduation ceremony.

At the end of the exercises Majali presented awards to the graduates.

## Ma'an youths launch cleanliness campaign

MA'AN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Youth Organisation (JYO) in the Ma'an Governorate announced Sunday that it will launch a cleanliness campaign along the desert highway in from Aqaba to Jurf Al Darawish to be carried out in the coming month.

A JYO statement here said that 12 local youth clubs and six sports clubs, as well as private organisations will take part in the

campaign which entails removing old tyres strew on the road, burning rubbish dumped along the sides of the road stretching 180 kilometres.

It said that citizens from the Ma'an Governorate will take part in the campaign by providing vehicles and trucks to carry away refuse, by providing financial contributions and by voluntary work.

Mamoud Abbadi

## Jordan to take part in Arab medical conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the 25th conference of the Arab Doctors Federation which opens in Baghdad Tuesday.

President of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), Dr. Mamoud Abbadi, will attend the conference which is being held under the title: coordination and integration of medical services for the Arab World.

The three-day conference will review working papers and subjects dealing with transplanting of human organs among other highly specialised topics, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

It said that a seminar on drug addiction and another on infant mortality will be organised during the conference.

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## JEA signs agreement to establish Bailey controls firm in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Sunday, paving the way for the establishment of a Bailey Controls Company (Jordan) to take charge of systems control and services in Jordan and other parts of the Arab World.

The firm will be created in cooperation with the Bailey Controls International, which will own half of the Jordanian company's capital and which will provide expertise and training, according to the provisions of an agreement for the creation of the company signed by JEA Director General Mohammad Arafeh and representatives of Bailey Controls International.

According to JEA officials, the

Services, they added, include installation, control, supervision and maintenance of systems at these industries, which include petrochemicals, oil refineries and fertilisers.

At a later stage, the officials said, there will be training for more Jordanian technicians and engineers on the company's operations, designing and manufacturing components used in systems control operations.

The Bailey Controls International, they added, will be employing Jordanian engineers and technicians abroad through the Jordanian company, thus creating jobs for Jordanian technicians with good returns for the national economy.

first step in the project will be recruiting and training 25 Jordanian engineers in the first year to take charge in controlling the systems whether owned by JEA or other industrial businesses in the country.

The second stage will be participating in control, supervision and maintenance operations in Jordan and abroad through the Jordanian company, thus creating jobs for Jordanian technicians with good returns for the national economy.

According to JEA officials, the



## JIEC extends registration deadline for permanent industrial exhibition

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The

businesses to participate in the exhibition, which will display national products.

The Jordanian firms have now been allowed until the end of this month to send in their applications before a decision can be taken to open the exhibition, a JIEC official said.

A JIEC announcement said that the extension was motivated by the huge number of applications received by Jordanian

announcements did not mention the number of applications received so far or whether there will be an expansion of the present site to accommodate more companies.

Most of the 140 industries at SIC will take part in the exhibition — displaying electrical appliances, plastic, leather and rubber products, chemical and textile goods, furniture, paper, medicine and other products.

## Seminar examines steps taken for the wellbeing of senior citizens

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A seminar examining measures for the well-being of senior citizens in Jordan Sunday reviewed a working paper on national, regional and international efforts being made to take care of the elderly people.

The paper, submitted by Dr. Abdulla Al Kharib, president of

the General Union of Voluntary Societies which organised the seminar, discussed various trends in the course of caring for the elderly and proposed ideas for application in Jordan.

A second paper was presented by Dr. Sari Naser, head of the University of Jordan's Sociology Department, and another pre-



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## Welcome and best wishes

THE STRONG sense of purpose and drive for peace reflected in Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's statements in Damascus and Amman, and his firm assertion that the U.N. Security Council has to take the lead in Middle East peace process come at the most opportune moment in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The planned meeting between Shevardnadze and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Cairo later this week — though described as no big deal — is yet another strong signal that Moscow does indeed intend to see it through that it leaves no door unopened in the quest for peace.

It is no coincidence that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suddenly finds it fit to wave a red herring by announcing a shift in his declared pursuit of a-la-carte Camp David peace settlement to acceptance of a peace conference under U.S.-Soviet supervision. But Shevardnadze more than amply replied to Shamir by pointing out to the resounding focus that the new Soviet proposal is giving to the five permanent members of the Security Council as the guardians of any settlement. Furthermore, the nine-month timeframe, which the three-phase Soviet plan outlines as the maximum duration before actually convening an international conference, is highly realistic in that the only party that needs any convincing is Israel since the Arab position is loud and clear over the inevitable fundamentals of any peace solution.

The Soviet proposal's very pointed reference to the "peace-making potential" of the U.N. and "other mutually acceptable and flexible forms of constructive action among the parties involved" should go a long way in countering Israel's contention that it would come under "pressure" at any international forum to accept "imposed solutions." What the Israeli leaders are not saying is that they have only their oppressive policies and expansionist ambitions to blame for finding themselves at the receiving end of international criticism.

The marked difference this time around is that the Soviet proposal provides and more for Israel's "genuine" security fears by calling for intense consultations among the parties concerned and asserting that the five permanent members of the Security Council would only assume the function of a preparatory body for the conference. At the same time, left vague at this point is the defined role of the permanent members of the Security Council in the international conference, as and when it is convened. But then, no-one lives under the illusion that the forum would go on an Israel-bashing spree and impose a solution that would threaten the genuine security of the Jewish state. In Shevardnadze's own words, Israel should realise that security could not be achieved by suppressing the Palestinian uprising and retaining the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

However, at this juncture in time, what is needed is a change in the Israeli rejection of a realistic "territorial compromise;" that is the fundamental element that should fall into place before we can hope for progress in peace efforts. Hopefully, the international community would pick up its cues from the Soviet proposal and address the overwhelming negative Israeli position, which is THE stumbling block in any drive for peace.

We welcome our dear guest, Shevardnadze, to the region and hope that the first strong Soviet diplomatic foray into the labyrinth of the Arab-Israeli conflict in years would be crowned with success.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A VISIT to Jordan by the Soviet foreign minister offers material for commentary in the Arab dailies Sunday. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the visit is clearly part of Moscow's current efforts to bring about peace to the Middle East. The Soviet Union realises that the Arab World is seeking to establish peace through the projected international conference to be held under the United Nations auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO, the paper noted. It said that the Soviet moves come at a time when the Middle East is witnessing important developments in the wake of the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council and in the light of the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories. These events prove beyond doubt that the Arab World is oriented towards establishing a just and durable peace that can ensure the rights of all people and all countries in the region, the paper added. But it said the visit coincides also with an escalation of atrocities on the part of the Israeli authorities against the Arab people of Palestine. This is the right time to move and end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it is hoped that Moscow which is known to be siding with the just cause of the Arab World will do all it can to help end the conflict in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the Western media for not only ignoring the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council but also for issuing false and hostile rumours and propaganda campaigns against its member states. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Western circles are putting around rumours and hostile impressions about the council, claiming that its members will be confronted with unsurmountable obstacles and difficulties. These media regard the council as a business firm aiming to achieve profits out of its operations and base their falsehoods on this assumption, the writer notes. He says that despite the difficulties each of the council members is facing at the moment, the situation is totally different from the Western media concept because the council has been established to launch cooperation in economic fields and help promote development and attain self sufficiency. The Western media, he adds, ignore the fact that the council members possess vast manpower and natural resources and are capable of playing a great role in the development of the whole region. To counter this onslaught, the council members are called on to launch an awareness campaign and open the way for citizens in the four Arab countries to hold an open dialogue which would contribute towards the aspired economic and social development.

## The big challenge: Education

The following is a press release from UNESCO's regional office in Amman on the regional programme for the universalisation and renewal of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab states by the year 2000.

WITH the beginning of the next decade which heralds the start of the twenty-first century, the Arab region will begin the implementation of the regional programme for the Universalisation and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Adult Illiteracy by the year 2000 (ARABUPEAL) which is based on the decision of the General Conference of UNESCO in its 24th session held in Paris in 1987.

By pursuance of this decision, UNESCO is completing its plans for universalisation of primary education and eradication of illiteracy in all regions of the world. UNESCO has already provided technical assistance of member states in Latin America and the Caribbean (1980), Africa (1983) and Asia and the Pacific (1986), where similar programmes are in operation now.

The justification for establishing this Arab cooperative regional programme was outlined by the two meetings of experts organised by UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) as follows:

— UNESCO and the Arab states are both concerned with the creation of a society that provides education for all citizens, both children and adults, the achievement of regional and national development through self-reliance and democratic participation to guarantee the efficacy and continuity of developmental efforts and the rationalisation of decision-making, as well as seeking suitable solutions to problems impeding the optimal utilisation of national resources, particularly manpower.

— Moreover, there is urgent need for the creation of an evolving Arab culture that would

match anticipated world trends in the year 2000. Such an evolving education should keep pace with the knowledge explosion, enhance social cohesion and justice, consolidate Arab cultural identity, and safeguard the Arab home land against subversive plots aimed at shattering cultural bonds among the Arab states.

— The Arab region is anxious to develop an authentic scientific and technological base that would help find solutions to problems of socio-economic development and ensure a balanced interaction with scientific and technological advancement.

— All the foregoing considerations call for a comprehensive assessment of the present realities of primary and basic education, as well as literacy work in the Arab states, with a view to identifying positive aspects that could be used to reinforce the work, detecting constraints, and finding solutions to overcome them. Such an assessment would encourage regional and national endeavours for the universalisation of primary and basic education and the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab region by the year 2000.

The Arab Nation is experiencing a crucial cultural conflict. In order for the Arab Nation to emerge successful from this conflict, it has to liberate itself from the shackles of the current crisis, which is manifested in the following:

— The limited capability of the Arab Nation to fully develop its resources and achieve optimal investment of these resources, particularly human resources that are expected to strike the 300 million mark by the year 2000.

— The widespread poverty and the low standards of living among the majority of the population in the region.

— The higher illiteracy rate which reached 56 per cent in 1985 (70 per cent among females) despite the fact that the Arab states have, during the past decade, achieved notable progress,

## King underlines big power role in peace efforts

Continued from page 1

The King paid tribute to the Soviet Union's constructive efforts for peace, noting that Moscow had contributed positively to making the international situation conducive to peace. The effects of the Soviet contribution are beginning to be felt in various international and regional conflicts, Petra quoted the King as saying.

The King voiced happiness with the level of Soviet-Jordanian relations and cooperation in various fields.

Shevardnadze presented the Soviet views on an international peace conference on the Middle East and the practical measures

that should be adopted to convening it, Petra said. He emphasised that the current situation in the region offers new opportunities for peace which should not go unexploited.

The meeting, which included a dinner hosted by the King, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political adviser Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the delegation accompanying Shevardnadze as well as the Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Zinckuk.

Shevardnadze and the delegation accompanying him left Amman for Cairo late Sunday.

Earlier, Rifai held a round of talks with Shevardnadze and reviewed the latest developments in the region, with the main focus on the Middle East conflict, Petra said. Both sides agreed on the need to convene an international conference attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rifai said Shevardnadze also discussed the situation in Lebanon and means to achieve peace in the war-torn country while safeguarding its unity and independence.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Qasem.

Qasem also held a meeting with Shevardnadze and explained Jordan's position that peace should be achieved through implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Petra said.

Qasem pointed out the congruence of the Jordanian and Soviet positions with the regard. He praised the Soviet position supporting the rights of Arabs and rejecting occupation as well as the Soviet Union's continued efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of Palestinian question and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an arrival statement, the Soviet foreign minister lauded Jordan's role on both the Arab and international levels. "We in the Soviet Union greatly appreciate Jordan's steady political role and principles regarding the Middle East issue on the international level," Petra quoted him as saying.

"I have the honour to present His Majesty King Hussein with a

letter from President Mikhail Gorbachev regarding the most important international issues, including, naturally, that of the Middle East and the peace process," Shevardnadze added.

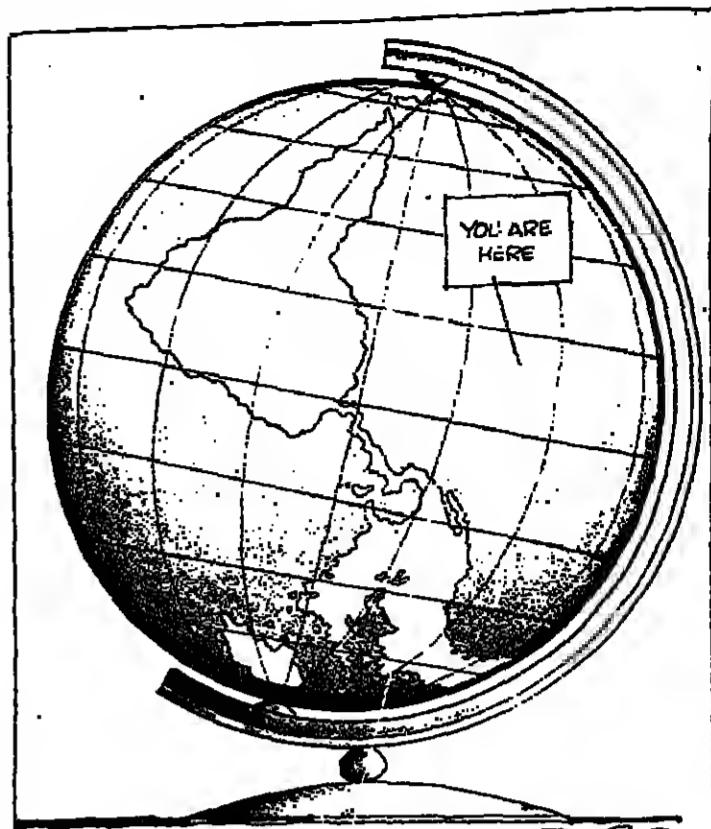
He noted that the Soviet leadership attributed great importance to the Jordan visit, not only because it was the first of its kind but because of the number of issues which the Soviet Union wished to discuss in detail with the Jordanian leadership.

Shevardnadze told reporters the Soviet Union had not taken a decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and a planned meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Cairo later this week signalled no change in Soviet policy.

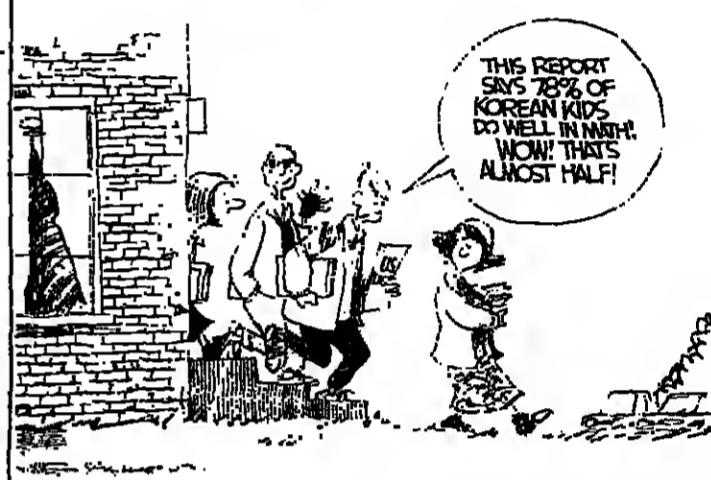
At a banquet hosted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa Friday night, Shevardnadze partly unveiled a Soviet proposal for a possible meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council, "intensifying contacts" among the five, who, "acting in contact with the parties involved in the conflict," will assume "the function of preparatory body for the conference."

"Third... the peace-making potential of the United Nations and of its secretary general could be engaged also in other mutually acceptable and flexible forms of constructive interaction among the parties involved in the settlement."

Shevardnadze expanded on the theme at a Damascus press conference before his departure for Amman Sunday saying that the five permanent members of the Security Council should take the lead in finding an acceptable formula for Middle East peace talks and that preparations for a peace conference should not take more than nine months.



Geography 101



## UNESCO launches drive

Continued from page 1

— But, to deal with the problem of illiteracy in the region, the UNESCO's 24th general conference (1987) decided to implement a regional programme for the Arab region similar to those in operation in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The Arab cooperative regional programme was outlined by UNESCO's regional office for education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) and was designed to contribute to the development of Arab educational systems at the level of literacy and primary education and to consolidate Arab national and regional efforts and offer technical assistance and advisory services to Arab member states.

The programme, which targets school-age children, especially those who have not had access to education, primary school drop-outs, unemployed primary school leavers, adolescent and adult illiterates and workers who are migrants to urban areas, will give priority to the rural population, underprivileged girls and women, and the youth.

"Action means coordination, having economic and technical cooperation and the social and political will. The media must be used to create public awareness that not all the children are going to school," Mayor said.

International and non-governmental agencies such as the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF have joined efforts "to provide public pressure and will."

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Mayor Sunday signed a memo of understanding on cooperation between Jordan and UNESCO in various fields.

In the field of education the

two sides agreed that the Jordanian government will make use of UNESCO experience in accomplishing its plans and comprehensive programmes for renewing and reconstructing the educational system. The two sides agreed to train employees concerned in educational management information and cooperation between UNESCO and concerned national institutions to carry out the illiteracy eradication project in the Jordan Valley and supporting project concerned with educating talented students and pre-school education and supporting training activities organised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Jordanian universities.

In the field of science, the memo centred on the support UNESCO can give in developing education technology, science curricula, providing aid for laboratories, training technicians for their maintenance, drawing the national policies and education technology and identifying the needs for manpower to serve development, building an information system and promoting communication systems with regional and international information networks.

In the field of culture, the two sides agreed that UNESCO will help Jordan's efforts to preserve culture and national heritage, and support studies on establishing libraries as well as a central library, help Jordan acquire documentation equipment, develop a system for libraries and documentation and continue supporting maintenance and restoration projects in Petra and Amra.

In the field of information, the two sides agreed to establish a central information bank for the Ministry of Information, extend technical support for a central information research unit at the Jordan Television and Broadcasting Corporation in the field of public opinion studies. UNESCO will also hold specialised seminars on television and radio equipment and technology.

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Mayor Sunday signed a memo of understanding on cooperation between Jordan and UNESCO in various fields. In the field of education the

two sides agreed that the Jordanian government will make use of UNESCO experience in accomplishing its plans and comprehensive programmes for renewing and reconstructing the educational system. The two sides agreed to train employees concerned in educational management information and cooperation between UNESCO and concerned national institutions to carry out the illiteracy eradication project in the Jordan Valley and supporting project concerned with educating talented students and pre-school education and supporting training activities organised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Jordanian universities.

In the field of science, the memo centred on the support UNESCO can give in developing education technology, science curricula, providing aid for laboratories, training technicians for their maintenance, drawing the national policies and education technology and identifying the needs for manpower to serve development, building an information system and promoting communication systems with regional and international information networks.

In the field of culture, the two sides agreed that UNESCO will help Jordan's efforts to preserve culture and national heritage, and support studies on establishing libraries as well as a central library, help Jordan acquire documentation equipment, develop a system for libraries and documentation and continue supporting maintenance and restoration projects in Petra and Amra.

In the field of information, the two sides agreed to establish a central information bank for the Ministry of Information, extend technical support for a central information research unit at the Jordan Television and Broadcasting Corporation in the field of public opinion studies. UNESCO will also hold specialised seminars on television and radio equipment and technology.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 100 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tender is 12.00 hours local time Saturday, April 1, 1989.

WASEF AZAR  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD.

INVITATION TO TENDER  
NO. 6F/89

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 6F/89 for supply, erection, supervision and commissioning of 15 units of 35 tons dump trucks.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 100 for each set of tender documents.

## JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD.

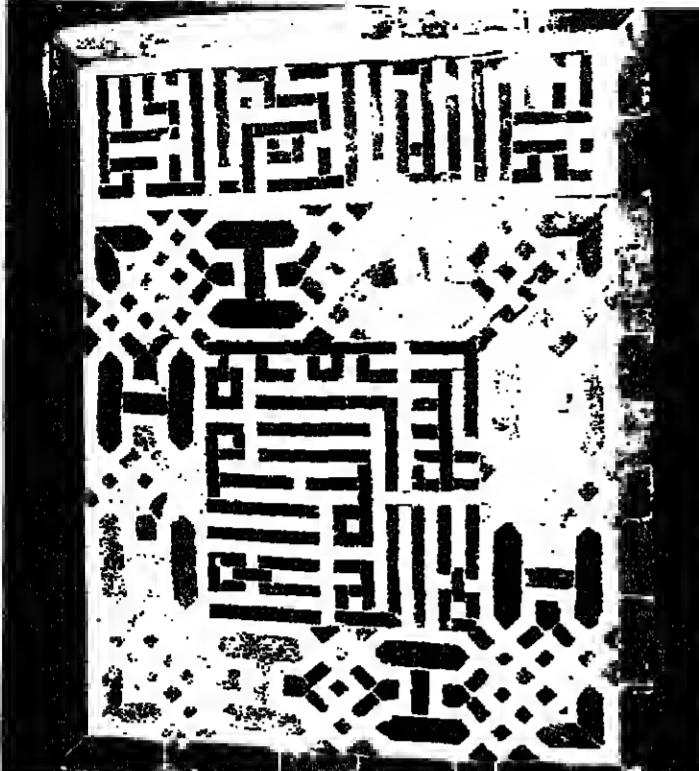
INVITATION TO TENDER  
NO. 7F/89

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 7F/89 for the supply, erection, supervision and commissioning of F.E. loaders and motor graders.

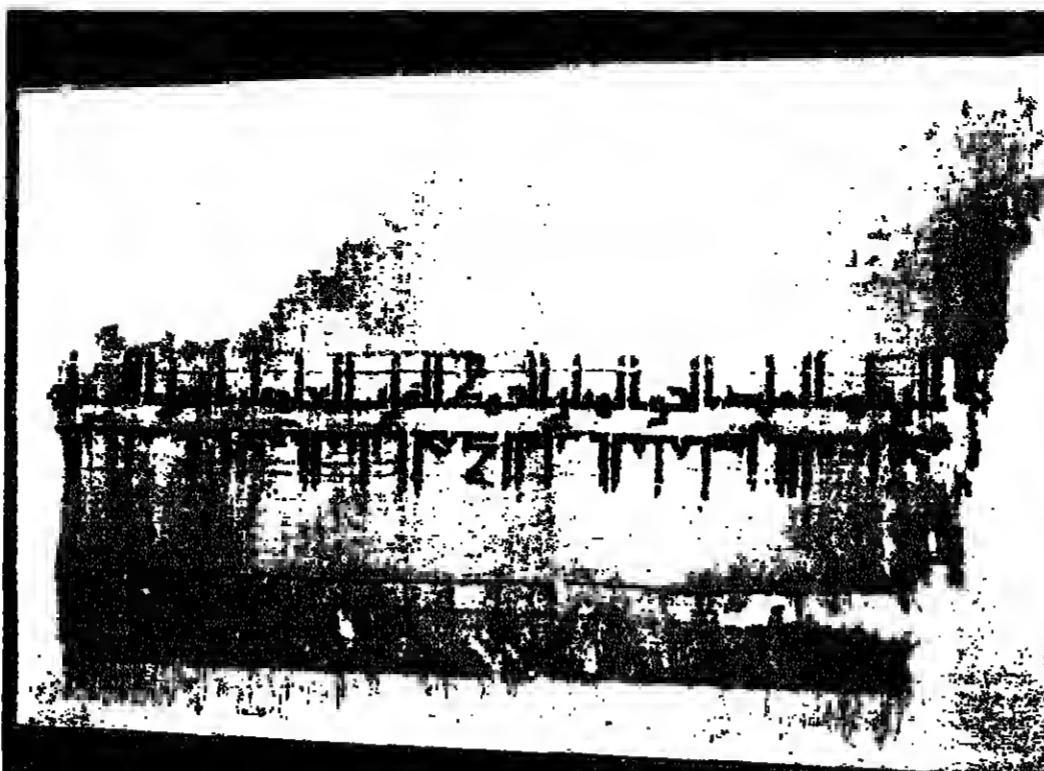
The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 75 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for tender submission is 12.00 hours local time Saturday, April 1, 1989.

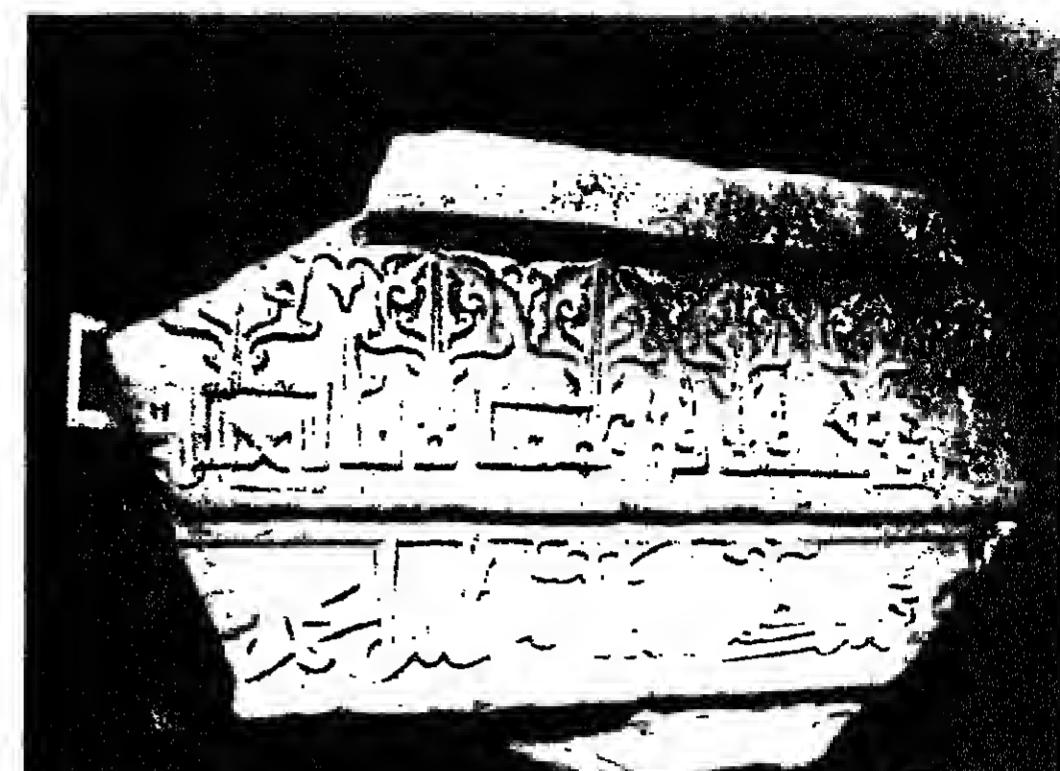
Wasef Azar  
Managing Director



A tile mosaic panel from 15th century Egypt. The square Kufic script in darker shades contains Bismillah at the top and Shahada, the Muslim declaration of faith, at the centre.



A Tiraz fragment, silk on linen, from the mediaeval (10th century) Near East, which carries the religious invocation right to left, then upside down and left to right.



Fragment of a stone frieze from 12th century Afghanistan

## The living curves of Islamic calligraphy

Calligraphy has thrived as a medium of both religious and secular expression in the Muslim world. A London exhibition brings centuries of the art together under one roof.

By Maureen Ali

**LONDON** — Calligraphy remains a living medium of secular and religious expression in the Muslim world and the strength of calligraphic compositions has been proven once again by a major exhibition in London.

The Zamana Gallery in South Kensington has established a reputation for exhibitions featuring arts mainly from the Islamic countries. This reputation will be further enhanced by the latest Zamana programme, *Islamic Calligraphy*, which will run until the end of March.

The exhibition aims to illustrate the development of calligraphy, both religious and secular,

from its early beginnings to the present day. A special feature, however, is that most of the works have been loaned from private collections, giving the public a rare opportunity to see fine examples of the art.

The exhibition was assembled by the Museum of Art and History in Geneva where curators were able to call upon the support of prominent collectors like Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Jean Paul Croiset and Rifaat Sheikh El-Ard, as well as others in Europe and Malaysia who have preferred to remain anonymous. The borrowed pieces worth hundreds of thousands of dollars have guaranteed a stimulating show which covers the full spec-

trum of calligraphic styles in a variety of media.

"We have concentrated primarily on four countries or areas to show the development and different aspects of the art," explained Claude Ritschard, curator of the Geneva museum. "These are the Arab lands, Iran, India and Turkey," she said. "We have tried to achieve as much variety as possible in terms of styles of calligraphy and materials used."

One of the oldest and most interesting pieces on show is a portion of wooden frieze, circa 879, from the Ibn Tulun mosque in Egypt. This is one of only seven such detached pieces from the mosque and the only one in private hands.

Also from Egypt is a relatively rare fragment of poetry written in Naskh script on papyrus between the 9th and 10th century and a

Tiraz fragment, embroidered in silk on linen, from the 10th century.

Among the many fine examples of the Quran are two leaves from the celebrated blue vellum volume with a gold Kufic script. This distinctive dark blue manuscript was most probably written in North Africa in the 10th century and was thought to be originally housed in the Qayrawan Mosque in Tunisia.

In complete contrast there are two folios from a striking pink Quran written in bold, sweeping Maghribi script and illustrated with finely illuminated symbols indicating verse and section endings. This, in turn, readily contrasts with a page from an unusual 15th century Indian Quran.

This is presented on a long, narrow format in black Bihari script, characteristic of Indian Qurans of the period. It has an illuminated beading and wherever the name

Allah appears, it is in gold.

There are both Indian and Iranian influences to be found in a 19th century Quran from Chinese Turkestan, one of a few Quranic manuscripts that can be directly attributable to that part of the Islamic world.

Included in the Turkish section are some of the finest examples of Ottoman calligraphy including two pages from a Quran dated between 1500 and 1510 and signed by the legendary Ottoman calligrapher, Sheikh Hamdullah.

Having perfected and standardised the Naskh script, his work had enormous influence on the development of the art of calligraphy.

The man recognised as Sheikh Hamdullah's successor was Hafiz Uthman (1642-168). His skills are illustrated in a one-page collection of the Hadith, dated Istanbul, 1671. These are written in a combination of Thuluth and Naskh

scripts with gold and colour illustration.

Ottoman calligraphic skills are also evident in a series of firman pages belonging to Sultans Suleiman I and Muhammad IV; in a group of works entitled *Calligraphic Compositions in ink, gouache and gold*, dated 1845, and in several stunningly illuminated manuscripts.

The art of illumination is also represented in a number of works from Iran, which include a double page from a manuscript from Mashhad, circa 1582, containing verses by the princely ruler Ibrahim Mirza.

Among the exhibit from India is an immaculately executed album page (circa 1645) with calligraphy and painting by the well known Mughal calligrapher, Mir Ali Heravi, whose skill was much admired by the Emperor Jahangir.

Though the majority of the

exhibits are works on paper, the full range on show includes 12th century Afghan stone friezes, a 14th century Indian marble tombstone, a 15th century Egyptian Kufic mosaic panel and a number of striking ceramic bowls from 10th eastern Iran or Transoxiana.

There is a particularly fine work of mid-16th Iranian metalwork in the form of a delicately wrought steel plate, and a finely engraved Indian brass seal with an ebony handle, dated 1651 and belonging to the Mughal emperor Shahjahan.

The exhibition is designed to appeal to connoisseurs and amateurs alike. The collection

not only highlights the great diversity in style which developed in calligraphy over the centuries, it also illustrates this through the work of several recognised masters.

Many of the pieces on show rival those found in leading museums throughout the world and have attracted enthusiastic audiences in Geneva and Dublin where the exhibition was held before arriving in London. At the end of March it will move back to Switzerland for a summer in Zurich and then on to the National Gallery in Amman, Jordan, — Academic File.

## An island of spices, perfumes

By Robert Phewell  
Reuters

**MORONI** — A white mercenary in battle dress stands guard on the apron as the visitor's aircraft touches down at Moroni airport. Behind him, two black members of the presidential guard tote automatic rifles. Near the terminal building a French officer in the khaki uniform of the Comoros Islands gendarmerie chats with officials.

The political fortunes of this island nation of 450,000 people are closely tied to France, South Africa and the handful of white mercenaries who lead the personal bodyguard of President Ahmed Abdallah.

The islands, situated half way between the African mainland and the northern tip of Madagascar, were colonised by France during the 19th century and became a sleepy corner of the French empire producing spices and perfume.

In 1975, three of the islands unilaterally declared independence, but the fourth island, Mayotte, which had rejected independence in a referendum a

year earlier, chose to remain French.

Barely three weeks later, the newly proclaimed President of the Comoros, Ahmed Abdallah, was overthrown by a civilian coup, whose leaders employed a band of mercenaries led by Frenchman Bob Denard to capture Abdallah.

But history turned full circle three years later when Denard led a mercenary invasion of Grande Comore, the main island of the Archipelago, and restored Abdallah to power.

Since then, Abdallah's 300-strong presidential guard has been commanded by white mercenaries and Denard has become a powerful presidential adviser.

### S. African influence

Diplomats say the 70-year-old president might now find it difficult to dispense with the mercenaries — estimated by diplomats to be about 25 in number — even if he wished to.

South Africa's influence has grown tremendously in the Comoros over the last five years.

"We pay a fee to be here and if

Abdallah wants to pay his mercenaries with it, that is his business," Roger Harding, South Africa's diplomatic representative in Moroni told Reuters.

Harding declined to say how much South Africa pays the Comoros. The islands are a strategically important foothold for South Africa in the Indian Ocean.

South African Airways has landing rights at Moroni and this offers Pretoria a useful staging post for flights to Europe and Asia.

The showpiece of South Africa's presence here is a \$25 million hotel project.

South Africa's Sun International group has used loans guaranteed by the South African government to recondition a 25-room hotel near the capital Moroni and it is due to open a 180-room tourist complex at the northern tip of Grande Comore island later this year.

To begin with at least, the new hotel will be filled with South African holidaymakers arriving on the weekly South African Airways flight from Johannesburg.

"It is the biggest investment

that has ever been made in the Comoros," says Harding.

Southern African tourists are a common sight on the Comoros, and the islands are a small but growing market for South African exports.

However, South Africa's presence in the Comoros is still dwarfed by that of France.

### Oysters from Brittany

Paris provides technicians to run the civil service, cash to meet the budget deficit, officers to train the gendarmerie and a military adviser for the president.

The Comorian franc is tied to the French franc. France is the country's biggest aid donor and fresh oysters from Brittany can sometimes be found on the menu of the Itsanda Hotel.

The mercenary-led presidential guard is the country's first line of defence against external attack and it has also been used on a number of occasions to put down local uprisings.

A concrete bunker now overlooks Itsanda beach near the presidential palace where Denard's mercenaries landed in 1978 to reinstate Abdallah.

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## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

## U.S., EC form task force to resolve dispute over meat

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and European negotiators agreed Saturday to a 75-day cooling off period in their increasingly abrasive trade war involving American beef containing growth hormones, as they intensified their search for a compromise to resolve the dispute.

Trade representative Carla Hills, holding her first discussions as America's top trade negotiator, said that substantial progress had been made in the two days of talks with representatives of the 12-nation European Community (EC).

The two sides agreed to establish a high-level task force to study the issue over the next 75 days with the goal of coming up with ways to export hormone-free American beef to Europe.

The task force will also consider an American demand that a panel of experts should be established to consider whether growth hormones constitute a health risk.

"We made good progress in working out a procedure with respect to our differences in the hormone area," Hills told reporters after the meeting ended. "We have a high-level task force to deal with that issue, to work out the differences if at all possible."

Frans Andriessen, the top trade negotiator for the European Community, said that he was encouraged by the talks with the new administration of President George Bush and predicted "our good will and good spirit" would guide the way to a solution.

Both Bush and European officials have expressed a desire to defuse the trade dispute, fearing that the battle could aggravate tensions just at a time when the new administration is trying to forge closer ties with its European allies.

The current trade dispute began Jan. 1 when the Europeans imposed a ban on shipments of U.S. beef because the meat contained growth hormones used to fatten American cattle.

The United States charged that the European action, which affected about \$100 million in annual meat shipments, represented an unfair trade barrier and that there was no scientific evidence that the hormones were a health threat.

A U.S. official, briefing reporters on the condition that his name not be used, said that the United States offered a new proposal on the contentious farm subsidy issue. The matter, he said, was to be discussed by Hills, Andriessen, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and Ray MacSherry, the European Community's commissioner in charge of agriculture, during talks on March 10 and 11 in Europe.

The current round of talks

will meet to consider imposing 100 per cent tariffs on \$100 million of American exports of walnuts and dried fruit.

Andriessen said he could not speak for the European Council of Ministers but he indicated that the progress made in the talks would likely postpone the second round of retaliation.

Andriessen told reporters at a later briefing that the United States and the European Community totalled \$163 billion last year, making the 12-nation Community America's largest trading partner.

Bush was sworn in last month. Referring to the beef dispute in his first address to Congress, he said last week that the major industrial countries needed "to rise above fighting about beef hormones to building a better future, to move from protectionism to progress."

A basis for compromise on the beef question was put forward by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower.

The Texas plan would involve isolating untreated cattle from birth through slaughter, giving them tests for artificial hormones and establishing enforcement procedures. Texas officials say that similar programmes meeting European standards have been proposed by Brazil and New Zealand.

American officials have been anxious to get the dispute resolved because the battle had raised questions about American beef.

"The health ban is a signal that something is wrong with our beef," Hills said last week. "Nothing is wrong with our beef."

Nearly half of American cattle are now treated with growth hormones. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has maintained throughout the dispute that the daily production of hormones in humans, even in children, is far higher than the minuscule levels left in meat from treated animals.

1988 were exported. In 1987, the last year for which comparative figures are available, 12.2 million motor vehicles were made in Japan, well ahead of America's 10.9 million.

Exchange rates and continuing quota on exports to the United States have led Japanese automakers to make the 1980s decade of "transplanting" — producing autos in the markets in which they will be sold.

The export quotas began in fiscal 1981 to allow the U.S. industry breathing space to recover from increasing Japanese imports. But the Japanese have responded by relocating production overseas — they have already established eight factories in North America — and have fallen short of the U.S. quota of 2.3 million cars for the last two years.

The export quota is set to a gradual downturn in the American economy."

Japanese companies produce about 29 per cent of all motor vehicles made in the world, according to statistics compiled by the Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Association of America and Japan Automobile Manufacturing Association.

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## Police raid Mandela house

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police Sunday said they found traces of blood and took fingerprints after an eight-hour search of the Soweto home of black activist Winnie Mandela. They also took bags of clothes belonging to her bodyguards. Police did not immediately confirm reports from spokesmen in the house that some of the bodyguards were arrested.

"We have found fingerprints and blood samples. These will be tested in our laboratory," said Brigadier General Jaap Joubert, who is heading the investigation into the death of a 14-year-old black activist who was allegedly abducted and beaten at the house before his body, with the throat slit, was found dumped in the black township of Soweto.

Joubert, who directed the

search while Mrs. Mandela went about her daily chores, is also investigating the disappearance of two young men last seen in the company of her bodyguards in November, and the murder of a Soweto doctor who is reported to have seen the 14-year-old boy after he was beaten.

Police searched through Mrs. Mandela's belongings, but did not take any of them, said a journalist at the scene. Spokesmen at the house said a few of the young men who stay at the house were taken away after the raid began at 4 p.m. (0200 GMT).

The Reverend Frank Chikane, general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said at a news conference Saturday that Mrs. Mandela had decided to remove the young men from her home, a

creation of Mandela, had waged a "reign of terror" in Soweto.

The executive of the African National Congress issued a softer rebuke Saturday, saying Mandela had made mistakes and failed to listen to the council of black community leaders.



Winnie Mandela

## French, Arabs demonstrate for Rushdie

PARIS (R) — About 100 French and Arab intellectuals demonstrated in Paris Sunday in support of Salman Rushdie, the British author whose death was ordered by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini last week.

The writers and political activists who protested outside the Chaillet palace called Khomeini's words a "terrorist act."

Muslims have complained that Indian-born Rushdie's latest book, "the Satanic Verses," defames their religion.

"I was not at all shocked by the book," exiled Iranian writer Packdaman Nasser said. "The world he describes is a world we know in the Third World ... a world of changing values."

The official Iranian news agency IRNA, within hours of receiving the statement, said the apology fell short of the public represen-

tation demanded for a retraction.

A second IRNA report said it was sufficient for a pardon but this was later redefined as an expression of a journalist's personal opinion.

There was no additional comment from Tehran, where Iranian President Ali Khamenei appeared to be trying to calm Western outrage Friday when he said Rushdie might be pardoned if he repented.

Britain's Foreign Office said it planned to ask Tehran to explain the signals to its Charge d'Affaires Nick Browne, one of three diplomats at the recently reopened embassy there.

The government also froze plans to increase its representa-

tion in Tehran, just three months after the countries agreed to restore full diplomatic ties after a year-long rift.

The 41-year-old author and his American wife have been in hiding since Tuesday. He has denied blaspheming Islam.

The book has outraged traditionalist Muslims but Britain's estimated 1.5 million Muslims were divided in their reaction to the apology.

The Islamic Society for the Promotion of Islamic Tolerance proposed a three-point peace plan suggesting that an erratum be included in future publications to warn readers that the book should not be regarded as a factual work on Islam.

10-day "civil struggle" against a brief visit by U.S. President Bush Feb. 27.

The same number of police stood vigil again Sunday in the streets of Seoul although police said most of 714 arrested for defying orders to disperse would be released later Sunday.

The protests were called by a newly-formed dissident alliance which said Bush's visit, two days after the first anniversary of Roh's inauguration, would strengthen the Seoul leader's position.

Some 120 police and demonstrators were injured when more than 10,000 farmers and dissidents battled riot police after a rally against the government's farm policies.

On Saturday, authorities mobilised 13,000 policemen to foil a dissident plan to launch a

brutal army crushing of a 1980 civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju, which claimed 200 lives by official count.

Rob, who promised to hold a vote of confidence after the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has taken a more tolerant line than Chun on demonstrations but was furious last Monday when police allowed a farmers' protest outside parliament to turn violent.

Some 120 police and demonstrators were injured when more than 10,000 farmers and dissidents battled riot police after a rally against the government's farm policies.

The radicals accuse Roh, who came to power after a free elections in late 1987, of failing to keep his campaign promise to expose past abuses of power.

## Seoul tightens grip amid Roh criticism

SEOUL (R) — With mounting criticism over South Korean President Roh Tae-woo's leadership, formidable police forces are out to crack down on street demonstrations in the run-up to the anniversary of his inauguration next week.

A police spokesman said Sunday that riot police hauled in a total of 714 protesters overnight, carrying out a new policy to block troubles "from the source."

The new police tactic coincide with a flood of criticism by political commentators that Roh's year in power has seen little progress in resolving basic problems caused by his strongman predecessor Chun Doo Hwan.

"Spontaneous efforts to remove authoritarian tints from the

government and to infuse a laissez-faire mood in its operations has combined to create the image of a weak government," said Kim Myong-Sik, a political editor at the Korea Times.

"The republic's problems have multiplied, and much of the blame goes to the chief executive for lacking wit and guts," Kim said.

Columnist Yu Kun-II of the influential Chosun Ilbo newspaper said continuing political problems were a result of the moral weakness of the ruling camp.

Yu said Roh failed to win moral support by refusing to throw out senior officials of the past era from his government.

Commentators also note Roh failed to end controversy over the

brutal army crushing of a 1980 civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju, which claimed 200 lives by official count.

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## Officials propose partially democratic elections in Poland

WARSAW (AP) — Communist leaders proposed a new electoral system Saturday that would reserve some parliament seats for independent candidates and eventually lead to elections, opposition spokesmen said.

"In comparison to what we have had, this is a great step forward... it opens the road to political freedom," said Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of a group of Solidarity officials participating in talks with the government.

The past, only party-approved candidates were able to run for parliament.

The proposal came during the latest session between the government and a Solidarity working group on political, economic and social reforms in Poland.

Janusz Onyszkiewicz, spokesman for the banned trade union, said opposition leaders were willing to discuss with authorities the partially democratic electoral system, which also would reserve a portion of seats for candidates backed by the Communist Party.

Janusz Reykowski, a politburo member who led the official side in Saturday's talks, called the proposal "a very important, radical change in comparison with all other election systems after the war. We treat this as a step to additional changes in the future."

Solidarity officials said the proposal appeared acceptable if other reforms were included, such as allowing access to the news media, insuring independent courts and guaranteeing the right to form associations.

"We would like the elections to be as open as possible, so that for example Solidarity candidates could compete with government candidates, but it seems that the government wants to avoid such

competition," Onyszkiewicz said in revealing the government's proposal at a news conference.

"The authorities expect our approval of an electoral procedure proposed for the nearest elections that will not be 100 per cent democratic. And we did accept this principle," he said.

Jack Kuron, a senior Solidarity adviser, said the opposition also was told that the proposed election procedure would be a one-time proposition, and that subsequent elections would be totally democratic.

But he cautioned, "a declaration as such has no significance. What is significant is (increasing) the broad democratic process" through other political reforms.

Under the government proposal, each election district would have two to five seats, and the opposition and authorities would decide in advance which seats could be contested among independent candidates and which would be reserved for officially backed candidates.

Party sources have said privately they envision a system where 60 per cent of the seats would be reserved for the party and its allies, and 40 per cent for independent candidates linked to the Roman Catholic church or Solidarity.

Anyone who collected 5,000 signatures could run for parliament, but both sides would observe a "gentleman's agreement" not to run in each other's districts, a high-ranking party source said.

The government proposal was

## Armenians leaving Azerbaijan — paper

MOSCOW (R) — Armenians are still leaving their homes in Azerbaijan as ethnic tension persists in the two Soviet republics, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported Sunday.

By last week, 166,000 refugees had arrived in Armenia from Azerbaijan, the newspaper said.

It said there were also many curfew violations in the capital, Yerevan, and other Armenian cities where Soviet troops were sent last year as tensions exploded into violence, while Armenian dissidents were continuing "hidden agitation."

"On the whole the situation in the capital and other districts of Armenia is normal. But one cannot not note that every day there are reports from district military commanders of violations of the established order," the newspaper said.

On Friday alone, 82 people were detained for such violations, Krasnaya Zvezda said. "All this indicates that below the calm surface, tension continues."

The article appeared to contradict a report by the Soviet news agency TASS earlier this month that refugees from both republics had started to return to their homes as the situation calmed down.

The Feb. 7 TASS account said 158,000 Armenians and 141,000 Azerbaijanis had fled their homes to escape violence or the threat of

it as of Nov. 22. But it said recently 43,800 Armenians and 4,000 Azerbaijanis had returned home.

Ninety-one people were killed last year in clashes stemming from a dispute between the two republics over control of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region is in Azerbaijan but three-quarters of its population are Armenians.

Members of the Karabakh Committee, an Armenian group that has organised protests for union of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, are continuing their "agitation work," Krasnaya Zvezda reported.

It said the group circulated rumours and "extremist leaflets." Among their "inventions" was an allegation that the Yerevan nuclear power station had been damaged in the devastating earthquake that hit part of Armenia Dec. 7, the newspaper said.

"Yesterday I visited the nuclear power station and I can say that it was not damaged," the correspondent wrote.

The article appeared to contradict a report by the Soviet news agency TASS earlier this month that refugees from both republics had started to return to their homes as the situation calmed down.

The Feb. 7 TASS account said all the leaders of the banned Karabakh Committee had been arrested, but there has been no word on what any charges have been filed against them.

## Bush's first journey high on symbolism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veteran globe-trotter George Bush sets out Wednesday on his first overseas journey as president, a fast-paced trip to three Asian nations anxious about the United States' budget problems and its military commitments abroad.

Over five-and-a-half days, Bush will travel to Japan, China, South Korea and back home again. More than 36 hours of his time will be spent on air force one flying from place to place.

Playing down expectations, White House officials said the trip offers an opportunity to demonstrate resolve and affinity with friends and the region. "It would be unreasonable to expect major resolution of policy issues four weeks into the administration," one official said.

"Symbolically it's important," said Robert A. Scalapino, director of the Institute of East Asian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. "There's no region in the world in which we have greater economic, political and strategic interests."

The trip originated with Bush's decision to attend the funeral Friday of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, which will attract scores of world leaders. The president has defended his decision to

attend the funeral amid criticism from those who still resent Hirohito's role in World War II.

"I'm doing what's right," the president said recently.

Bush, former navy aviator whose plane was shot down by the Japanese in the Pacific in 1944, said, "We have a good relationship with Japan. I want to see it even better. And this doesn't concern me a bit. And you're talking to a person who was in combat in World War II. I feel you look ahead, not always look back. You do what's right."

Taking advantage of the occasion, Bush will hold separate talks in Tokyo with 16 to 20 heads of state or government, including King Hussein, French President Francois Mitterrand, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Bush's trip comes at a time of concern in Asia that budget and trade deficits could prompt the United States to scale down its defence commitments or to demand that allies shoulder a bigger share of regional security costs. In particular, there are tensions over the big trade imbalances that Japan and South Korea have with the United States.

## COLUMN

### Residents fed up with fame

CARMEL, California (AP) — Fed up with fame and overdosed on tourists after the tenure of Mayor Clint Eastwood, some residents tried to stop Henry Winkler and Tom Hanks from making a Walt Disney film in this coastal village. The showdown came

Tuesday night when the city council granted the Disney company a permit to film outdoor scenes of the action comedy "Turner and Hooch" on five days in April. The film stars Hanks, Marc Winkler and a dog named Beasley. Winkler will direct. Neither Winkler nor Hanks appeared at the meeting. Instead, location manager Eric Johnson and production manager Michele Ader fielded questions from neighbourhood associations.

### Judge warns woman about heels

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) —

A judge has warned Berenice Rogers to slip out of her high heels before strolling around her apartment. Palm Beach County circuit Judge Richard Burk said Tuesday that if Rogers persists in annoying her downstairs neighbours with her noisy footsteps, she could be pacing inside a jail cell. Bernard and Sonja Arthuse, who live directly below Rogers at the Sun and Surf Condominium, said the problem began in 1984 when Rogers had Italian tile laid in her \$235,000 condominium. The couple's attorney, Charles Nugent, requested Burk to order Rogers to install carpeting. Rogers said she laid oriental and sheepskin rugs and removes her heels at the front door, but she does not want carpet. "I don't believe Mrs. Rogers is required to give up her right to decorate," the judge said. "And I don't believe I can require her to stop walking."

Thief strips

KULA LUMPUR (AP) — A man robbed a woman of a gold chain, a bangle, a piece of jade and cash but eventually left most of it behind and flung off all his clothes while people chased him, it was reported last week. Chong Yuk Yin, 54,